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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Wilfried **BIEN** et al.

Appln. No.: 10/590,534

Filed: 08/25/2006

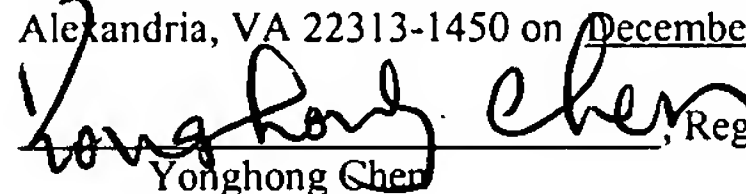
For: **METHOD FOR CONNECTING A SHEET METAL COMPONENT, SUCH AS A PIPE, TO A CAST METAL COMPONENT, SUCH AS A HOUSING PORT, IN PARTICULAR FOR AN EXHAUST SYSTEM**

Attorney Docket No.: 3926.283

Customer No.: 30448

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited either by facsimile to 571-273-8300 or with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 18, 2006.

  
Yonghong Chen, Reg. No. 56,150

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98**

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the following documents for the above-identified application. Copies of any non-US documents set forth below and listed on the attached Forms PTO/SB/08A & PTO/SB/08B, copy of the International Search Report (ISR) and a German

Examination Report dated October 28, 2004 issued in the corresponding German application are provided herewith.

1. English abstract of JP 10 314948
2. EP 0 939 208 A2 (English abstract provided)
3. DE 198 08 383 A1 (English abstract provided)
4. US 5,268,555
5. DE 197 21 092 C1 (English abstract provided)
6. EP 0 921 052 A2 (English abstract provided)
7. EP 0 761 939 A1 (English abstract provided)
8. DE 100 22 052 A1 (English abstract provided)
9. DE 198 19 946 A1 (English abstract provided)
10. AICHELE: "Schutzgasschweißen - Verfahren Anwendung Wirtschaftlichkeit," 1981, pages 14-19 and 124-127, Messer Griesheim GmbH, Germany

Documents 1-8 are cited in the ISR. Document 9 is mentioned in the background of the specification of the instant application. Document 10 is cited in the German Examination Report dated October 28, 2004. An English translation of document 10 is not readily available. It is stated in the German Examination Report dated October 28, 2004 that claim 1 of the instant application is not patentable in view of pages 16-17 and 126-127 of this article.

Since the present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first office Action, no certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not

waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Forms PTO/SB/08A & PTO/SB/08B be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 18, 2006



Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet

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of

12

**Complete if Known**

Application Number

10/590,534
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Filing Date

08/25/2006

**First Named Inventor**

Wilfried BIEN

## Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

3926.283
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## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> ~Number <sup>4</sup> ~Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		JP 10 314948	12-02-1998	TOYOTA MOTOR CORP		
		EP 0 939 208 A2	09-01-1999	ZEUNA-STÄRKER GMBH & CO KG		
		DE 198 08 383 A1	09-02-1999	Volkswagen AG		
		DE 197 21 092 C1	09-03-1998	Bayerische Motoren Werke AG		
		EP 0 921 052 A2	06-09-1999	Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft		
		EP 0 761 939 A1	03-21-1997	GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION		

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

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PTO/SB/08B (07-05)

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)		<b>Complete if Known</b>			
		Application Number	10/590,534		
		Filing Date	08/25/2006		
		First Named Inventor	Wilfried BIEN		
		Art Unit			
		Examiner Name			
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	3926.283

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		AICHELE: "Schutzgasschweißen - Verfahren Anwendung Wirtschaftlichkeit," 1981, pages 14-19 and 124-127, Messer Griesheim GmbH, Germany	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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